

based Youth Services Program, and the Teen Center.

Gillespie has actively participated in various community service-related activities; including: President of the Bayonne Child Abuse Council; member of the Bayonne Mayor's Council on Drugs and Alcohol; Bayonne Planning Board; Bayonne Municipal Alliance; Bayonne Hospital Foundation-Management Services Organization; Parish Council; City of Bayonne WTC Memorial Committee; Ireland's 32 Board of Trustees; Bayonne Municipal Election Candidate in 1994; and Chairperson-Holy Family Academy "Phon-a-thon" in 1992.

She attended Caldwell College, Kean College, New Jersey City University, and Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Agnes M. Gillespie for 30 years of dedicated service on behalf of children and young adults in Bayonne, NJ.

ESTABLISHING FIXED INTEREST RATES FOR STUDENT AND PARENT BORROWERS

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1762, which will provide students with low interest rates on Federal student loans, while preserving the health of the student loan industry by ensuring the current and future participation of lenders in this market. By helping lenders stay in the student loan markets, we are making sure that qualified students will have access to higher education, regardless of their financial background.

S. 1762 represents a compromise between those representing students, and those representing the lending industry. This compromise essentially fixes a problem that would have arisen in 2003 in the student loan interest rate formula that, according to the lending community, would have dried up resources for students needing funds for college by potentially reducing returns for such loans below the cost of issuing such loans. S. 1762 preserves the current interest rate formula that determines how much lenders receive from the Federal government, while locking in very low interest rates for students. I applaud the representatives of students and lenders for working together on a difficult, complex issue, to find a solution that keeps loans available and affordable for disadvantaged students.

The formula will change in 2006 so that the interest rate students pay will be fixed at 6.8 percent, which is an historically low interest rate for students, and will eliminate confusion among borrowers of student loans regarding shifting interest rates and formulas. With the changes in S. 1762, students benefit by getting guaranteed low interest rates, and by having the availability of funds for loans, and the stability of the student loan industry, ensured.

For low-income students especially, student loans represent a life-line to a college degree that is often beyond the reach of a family's resources, grants and scholarships. Student loans help bridge a gap for low-income students and provides them the same opportuni-

ties to earn a living commensurate with their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1762 is a good bill and is crucial for ensuring the availability of funds for qualified students to go to college. As we know, more and more students are going to college these days, and more are doing so with the help of student loans. And higher education is a smart investment, especially for low-income students, with earnings from a bachelor's degree far exceeding earnings from only a high school degree. S. 1762 will mean that more students, especially more low-income students, can go on to college and will be more able to participate in the 21st century economy, and I strongly support it.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP DONALD HILLIARD, JR.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the many accomplishments of Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., Senior Pastor of the Historic Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. He will be honored for his 25 years in the ministry on Friday, January 25, 2002, at the Hyatt Hotel in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Under his innovative leadership, Second Baptist Church's congregation blossomed from 125 to over 4,500 members. This fast-growing ministry has expanded to three locations of worship: the Cathedral Second Baptist Church, Perth Amboy, New Jersey; the Cathedral Assembly by the Shore in Asbury Park, New Jersey; and the Cathedral in the Fields in Plainfield, New Jersey. Over fifty churches are currently ministering to the unique needs of these communities, as well as to the congregants who travel from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York to attend services.

Dr. Hilliard is the founder and CEO of the Cathedral Community Development Corporation (CCDC). This organization services the community through it's Joy in the City Child Development Center and The Timothy House, a resource for men recovering from situations of homelessness and/or addiction. The Corporation functions out of the Cathedral Community Cornerstone Complex, which, through its new Kaleidoscope Economic Empowerment and Human Development Complex, offers economic empowerment opportunities, a rehabilitation room to serve prostitutes and HIV positive individuals, and will house an outreach center for the homeless.

Bishop Hilliard holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern College, St. Davids, Pennsylvania, a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, as a Dr. Samuel D. Proctor Fellow.

Dr. Hilliard is married to Minister Phyllis Thompson Hilliard, and is the proud father of three daughters, Leah Joy Alease, Charisma Joy Denise and Destiny Joy Thema.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr., on his 25th anniversary in the ministry and for his many contributions on behalf of the residents of New Jersey.

A GREAT TIME TO BE AN AMERICAN

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation has joined together, united in our solemn resolve to defend freedom and liberty. As we continue to move forward following that tragic morning, I would like to insert in the RECORD a recent column from The Wilmington News-Journal by Beth Peck. I believe her inspiring words are appropriate and important during these times.

[From the Wilmington News-Journal, Jan. 5, 2002]

AFTER DARK YEAR, WE SEE AMERICA IN NEW LIGHT

(By Beth Peck)

For the first time in my life, I belong to the American mainstream. I am part of what until now has been something of an underground group in America: the quietly patriotic. Until Sept. 11, we were considered quaint at best, or absurd at worst.

It certainly wasn't cool to talk about our love of country, our belief that America is the best nation on the planet, and our feeling of gratitude that luck that luck or providence made us citizens. It has been 60 years since Americans last came together as cohesively as today.

I was too young to conceptualize the mainstream during the late '60s and '70s, when "flower power" gave way to the "me generation." I didn't pay much attention to the mainstream during the '80s, when style overpowered substance and greed was good. And I didn't particularly relate to the mainstream during the '90s, when the acquisitive focus of a decade-long economic expansion finally burst with the Internet bubble.

But now, events have converged to give legitimacy to what I've known all along: that we are truly fortunate to be Americans.

For all of my 35 years, I have waited for this moment. This is a time when Americans are united in a reverence and appreciation of the society we created and the liberty we enjoy.

What American can look at Afghanistan, with its repressive, state-sponsored version of Islam, and not rejoice at our First Amendment privilege to practice any (or no) religion we choose without molestation or interference? What American can look at Iraq, with its heavily censored, state-controlled media, and not give thanks for our freedom of speech?

We don't have to look too far back to realize that it wasn't always this way. During travels in Canada this summer, I was struck by the number of flags I saw flying on homes. Why don't we do that here, I wondered. Why are the only American flags to be found flying over car dealerships?

That's no longer true.

Back in the United States just days before Sept. 11, I spontaneously burst into "America the Beautiful" while standing on a trail overlooking Yellowstone Lake. The sunset had given the mountains ringing the lake an extraordinary amethyst hue, and I could not resist singing, "O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!"

Others on the trail simply stared at me.

Not any more.

Today Americans don't take for granted the privileges they share. The terrorists who